

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fault diagnostic system, which includes a vehicle and an information center that are capable of communicating with each other, the vehicle fault diagnostic system comprising:

vehicle data detection means that is installed in the vehicle to detect vehicle data;

fault detection means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to detect a vehicle fault in accordance with said vehicle data;

identification process instruction means that is installed in the information center to find arising of the vehicle fault and to instruct the vehicle to perform a fault identification process for identifying the cause of the vehicle fault;

identification process execution means that is installed in the vehicle to perform the fault identification process that is instructed;

identification process result return means that is installed in the vehicle to return the result of said fault identification process to the information center;

fault location identification means that is installed in the information center to identify the fault location in accordance with the result of said fault identification process, which is returned from the vehicle; and

identified fault countermeasure means that is installed in the information center to take countermeasures against the identified fault,
fault,

wherein said identified fault countermeasure means includes recovery process instruction means for instructing the vehicle to perform a recovery process for eliminating the influence of the identified fault, the vehicle fault diagnostic system further comprising:

recovery process execution means that is installed in the vehicle to make the vehicle itself perform the recovery process that is instructed; and
process determination means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to determine in accordance with the result of said recovery process whether another recovery process should be continued or not.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 21, wherein said recovery process instruction means includes

most serious fault storage means for storing most serious faults and recovery target limiting means for issuing instructions for performing said recovery process only when a detected fault is one of the most serious faults.

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 1, wherein said identification process instruction means includes

serious fault storage means for storing serious faults and identification target limiting means for issuing instructions for performing said fault identification process only when a detected fault is serious.

5. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fault diagnostic system, which includes a vehicle and an information center that are capable of communicating with each other, the vehicle fault diagnostic system comprising:

vehicle data detection means that is installed in the vehicle to detect vehicle data;

fault detection means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to detect a vehicle fault in accordance with said vehicle data;

recovery process instruction means that is installed in the information center to find arising of the vehicle fault and to instruct the vehicle to perform a recovery process for eliminating the influence of the vehicle fault;

recovery process execution means that is installed in the vehicle to make the vehicle itself perform the recovery process that is instructed; and

process determination means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to determine in accordance with the result of said recovery process whether another recovery process should be continued or not.

6. (Original) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 5, wherein said recovery process instruction means includes

most serious fault storage means for storing most serious faults and recovery target limiting means for issuing instructions for performing said recovery process only when a detected fault is one of the most serious faults.

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fault diagnostic system, which includes a vehicle and an information center that are capable of communicating with each other, the vehicle fault diagnostic system comprising:

fault characteristic value detection means that is installed in the vehicle to detect a fault characteristic value stemming from arising of a particular fault;

fault seriousness determining means for determining the serious degree of detected said fault in accordance with the magnitude of said fault characteristic value; and

supply information limiting means for supplying the detected information about said fault to the information center only when said serious degree exceeds a judgment value.value;

recovery process instruction means that is installed in the information center to instruct the vehicle to perform a recovery process for eliminating the influence of said fault whose information is supplied to the vehicle;

recovery process execution means that is installed in the vehicle to make the vehicle itself perform the recovery process that is instructed; and

process determination means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to determine in accordance with the result of said recovery process whether another recovery process should be continued or not.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 8⁷, wherein said supply information limiting means supplies information including said fault characteristic value to the information center as the information about said fault, and wherein said recovery process instruction means includes urgency judgment means, which, when the information about said fault is supplied from the vehicle, judges in accordance with said fault characteristic value whether the fault should be recognized as an urgent fault; and recovery target limiting means for issuing instructions for performing said recovery process only when said fault whose information is supplied from the vehicle is urgent.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 7 or 9, further comprising:

identification process instruction means that is installed in the information center to instruct the vehicle to perform a fault identification process for identifying the cause of said fault whose information is supplied from the vehicle;

identification process execution means that is installed in the vehicle to perform the fault identification process that is instructed;

identification process result return means that is installed in the vehicle to return the result of said fault identification process to the information center; and fault location identification means that is installed in the information center to identify a fault location in accordance with the result of said fault identification process, which is returned from the vehicle.

11. (Previously Presented) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 1, wherein said fault identification process includes a plurality of inspection modes, and wherein said fault location identification means includes identification process completion means, which determines that the fault identification process is completed when a fault location can be identified in accordance with a fault identification process result that is returned from the vehicle; and identification process continuation means, which causes said identification process instruction means to instruct the start of an inspection mode corresponding to the result when the fault location cannot be identified in accordance with said result.

12. (Previously Presented) The vehicle fault diagnostic system according to claim 1, further comprising:

fault distance estimation means that is installed in the vehicle or in the information center to estimate the travel distance remaining before a fault occurs in the vehicle in accordance with said vehicle data; and

either fault distance display means for displaying said travel distance remaining before a fault occurrence within the display or fault distance transmission means for transmitting said travel distance to a vehicle maintenance factory.